



THE CODE OF CONDUCT

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OUTLINE

- **Background**
- **The Six Articles**



CODE OF CONDUCT

- **1955 - Executive Order 10631**
 - To provide guidance to members of the armed forces in combat and while a POW or subject to hostile detention
- **1977 - Article V amended to strengthen “Bounce Back” policy**
- **1988 - Amended to become Gender-Neutral**



CODE OF CONDUCT

- Not a Punitive Regulation or General Order BUT ---
- Violations of certain Articles may also violate UCMJ!

Example: Acts Harmful to Comrades (Article IV) may also violate Article 104 of the UCMJ (Aiding the Enemy)



ARTICLE

I

**I am an American
fighting in the forces
which guard my
country and our way
of life. I am prepared
to give my life in
their defense.**



ARTICLE II

**I will never surrender of
my own free will. If in
command, I will never
surrender the members
of my command while
they still have the means
to resist.**



ARTICLE III

If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.



ARTICLE III

- **Weaponless battlefield**
- **Ingenuity**
- **Humor**
- **Faith**
- **No favors or parole from the enemy unless essential for life of POW**
- **Duty to escape**



ARTICLE IV

If I become a Prisoner of War, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.



POW COMMAND

- **Senior Ranking Officer (SRO), regardless of service, assumes command of officers**
- **Geneva POW Convention states non-officer POW's will elect POW representatives, but U.S. policy is that Senior NCO will assume command**



POW COMMAND

- If Senior POW not the Representative, the Representative will speak for the Senior
- Medical Officers can command only other medical personnel
- Chaplains can never command



ARTICLE V

When questioned, should I become a POW, I am required to give my name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering any further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.



ARTICLE V

- **Never give anything up other than the “big four” without a fight**
 - Reminds you that the enemy is still the enemy
 - Forces them to exert effort



ARTICLE VI

**I will never forget that I
am an American,
responsible for my actions
and dedicated to the
principles which made my
country free. I will trust
in my God and in the
United States of America.**



ARTICLE VI

- **Reminds POW's that they are not forgotten**
- **They have a right to depend upon the United States to use “every available means” to secure their release and to take care of their families and their careers**
- **However, they may be held accountable for their actions while in captivity**



QUESTIONS?